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## Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, October 10, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

O God, our help in ages past, free us to be open to Your gift of hope for years to come. Particularly, we pray for a lively hopefulness for today. Grant that we may not allow our experience of You in the past to make us think You are predictable or limited in what You can do today. Help us not to become so familiar with Your customary, daily blessings that we lose a sense of expectancy for Your special interventions in the complexities and challenges of this day. Today we will expect great things from You and we will attempt great things for You. In our worries and cares, give us the joy of knowing that You are with us. In our Lord's burden-banishing name. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

At 2:15, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 927, the Cuba sanctions bill, with a cloture vote on the substitute amendment to occur today at a time to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the minority leader.

In accordance with rule XXII, Senators have until 12:30 today to file second-degree amendments to the substitute amendment to H.R. 927. Also, for the information of all Members, a third cloture motion was filed on Friday. Therefore, if cloture is not invoked today, another cloture vote will occur on Wednesday. There will be no votes before the 5 o'clock hour today.

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe we have time reserved now for morning business, and I would like to proceed now under morning business.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct. There will now be a period for morning business.

The Senator is recognized for 30 minutes.

### A TIME FOR HISTORIC DECISIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have a long, hard few weeks ahead of us, probably the most crucial 6 or 7 weeks or so that we have had in many years—at least 12 or 15 years, in my own experience. Between now and Thanksgiving, every Member of this Congress will make decisions that can only be described as historic. The votes we cast in the weeks ahead on Medicare, Medicaid, welfare, and the whole legislative package known as the reconciliation bill, will determine the course of the American Republic for at least the next generation.

When I go home to Mississippi and I use this word "reconciliation," constituents ask what that means. I explain that "reconciliation" is just a fancy word for saying this is the time when we keep our word, when we actually do what we said we were going to do in earlier legislation we passed this year—in the budget resolution, for instance.

So, this is an historic time. That is no exaggeration. This year's budget showdown is quite different from the budgetary experiences of past years. In the past, we have implemented budgets with so-called spending cuts that never seem to reduce spending and with revenue increases that got spent before the taxpayers ever saw what they had earned. This time I really believe it is going to be different. This time the reductions in spending are going to be real. They are going to be structural, that is, actually changing the nature of many programs to build into them fiscal safeguards.

As long as most of us have been in the Congress, everyone has talked a good game about entitlement reform. It never happened. But this time it is actually underway. This time around, the taxpayers are going to get the benefit of our holding down spending.

Radical as it may seem to much of official Washington, we are going to leave more money in the hands of those who actually earn it; the workers, the families, and investors of America. That is the goal we have been working toward all year. It has been our guiding light, our polar star during the tough contests over the budget, the balanced budget constitutional amendment, the appropriations bills, and entitlement reform. We have won some. We have lost a few. But all the while we have kept our focus on the greater goal of the financial independence of the American home.

In that way, we have laid the groundwork for reducing the size and scope of the Federal Government. We started the process of returning decisionmaking to the States and to the citizens of the States. What we are doing this year is only the beginning of the most profound power shift this country has seen since King George's colonial governors were sent packing back from where they came.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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